

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01826 181636Z

44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /078 W

----- 081736

R 181530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2206

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, EG, USSR

SUBJECT: RUMORED RETURN OF GROUNDED TU-154S TO USSR

1. PRESS FEB 18 CARRIES SMALL STORY ANNOUNCING RETURN TO USSR OF REMAINING SEVEN TU 154 AIRLINERS, GROUNDED SINCE ONE CRASHED LAST FALL. AIRCRAFT ARE ALL STILL IN CAIRO, BUT EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THEY HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING SOVIET AGREEMENT TO TAKE THEM BACK.

2. WE ARE TOLD EGYPTIAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL DELEGATION PRESENTLY IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC MATTERS IS TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT EARLY ON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SOVIETS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TACCEPTED RETURN OF ALL SEVEN, BUT ONLY IF GOE AGREES TO PAY FOR SPECIAL INTERIOR EQUIPMENT THAT WAS INSTALLED AND A CHARGE FOR THE TIME THE AIRCRAFT WERE IN EGYPTAIR'S HANDS. THERE IS RESISTENCE EVEN TO THESE EXPENSES BEING ASSUMED BY EGYPT, BUT OUR SOURCES SEEM TO FEEL THEY WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE FALL-BACK POINT.

3. COMMENT: REPORTING RETURN OF AIRCRAFT IN ADVANCE OF FACT IS A STANDARD EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATING PLOY. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN BALKING FOR SOME TIME ON TAKING BACK THESE AIRCRAFT. GIVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01826 181636Z

DIFFICULTY SOVIETS HAVE IN SEELING THEIR AIRCRAFT, IT HARDLY

SEEMS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE THEM ALL BACK,  
A TACIT ADMISSION OF INFERIORITY, UNLESS THERE WERE A FAIRLY  
SIGNIFICANT PAYOFF IN RETURN, NOT NECESSARILY IN MONEY. SOVIETS  
MAY, OF COURSE, BELIEVE THAT SUCH A GESTURE WILL HELP IMPROVE  
STRAINED SOVIET/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. THEN, TOO, EGYPTIANS MAY  
MERELY BE ENGAGING IN SOME WISHFULL THINKING AND/OR PRESSURE  
TACTICS.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CAIRO01826  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750057-1091  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750236/aaaabgio.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

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05 JUL 2006

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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED RETURN OF GROUNDED TU-154S TO USSR  
**TAGS:** EAIR, EAID, EG, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006